

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE - JAPAN

March 22, 2011

Information, links and updates for constituents, family members and friends in Japan.

The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. embassy and consulates in Japan are working to obtain information on the status of U.S. citizens and to provide emergency assistance to U.S. citizens. At this time, we have no reports of U.S. citizens killed or injured in the earthquake. Although telephone lines are disrupted, relatives may want to try contacting loved ones in Japan by e-mail, text (SMS) message, or other social media.

CONSULAR ASSISTANCE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN JAPAN

Online Information:

Monitor travel.state.gov and the Embassy Tokyo websites for the latest updates.

Public Inquiries:

• If you have concerns about a specific U.S. citizen in Japan, please send the State Department an e-mail at JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov

• If you have concerns about a specific U.S. citizen in the Tsunami zone outside of Japan, please send the State Department an e-mail at PacificTsunamiUSC@state.gov

• E-mail inquiries are strongly preferred, but you may call the Department's emergency assistance center at 1-888-407-4747 (Calling from outside the U.S. + 1-202-501-4444) if you are unable to use e-mail.

LOCATING FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Many Middle Tennesseans are struggling to get information about friends

or family members. We are working with the State Department as they coordinate with the Japanese government on the rescue and recovery operation and will be gathering information throughout the weekend. If anyone is looking for information about friends or family members currently in Japan, contact Representative Jim Cooper's Office at 615-736-5295.

GOOGLE'S PEOPLE FINDER

Google recently launched a "people finder" to help locate friends and loved ones in Japan. [Click here for more information.](#)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL INQUIRIES

- U.S. Forces Japan reports that all personnel have been accounted for, and there are no reports of injuries.

- The Department of Defense instructs that family members of Department of Defense personnel should call 1-800-342-9647 to inquire about their loved ones or contact the individual unit command directly for more specific information.

JAPANESE AND OTHER CITIZENS

- If you are calling regarding a Japanese citizen, please contact the Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville (615-340-4300) or the Japanese Embassy in Washington (202-238-6700).

- If you are calling regarding a citizen of a third country, please contact that country's Embassy or Consulate. Contact information for foreign Embassies and Consulates in the United States is available in the Country Specific Information links at www.travel.state.gov. The State Department has set up a task force to respond to the earthquake and tsunami disasters. Email for the consular task force is japanemergencyusc@state.gov; email for inquiries in the tsunami zone overseas outside of Japan is pacifictsunamiusc@state.gov.

The most recent information is posted on the Embassy Tokyo website .

TRAVEL ALERT

The Department of State has issued a travel warning for Japan. U.S. citizens should avoid travel to Japan at this time. This Travel Alert expires on April 1, 2011. Full text of the travel alert is [here](#) .

HOW TO HELP

We encourage cash donations to established organizations with foreign aid programs.

You can make a cash donation to the American Red Cross's International Services division. Donors can direct their funds specifically to Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami Relief. You can also donate \$10 by texting REDCROSS to 90999.

Another website,
www.interaction.org,
has a list of other organizations accepting contributions.

STATE DEPARTMENT UPDATES

UPDATE - March 22, 2011

Additional information, including an updated Warden Message, was issued on March 22 by Embassy Tokyo. The message and a video by Ambassador Roos can be found at <http://japan.usembassy.gov>

GENERAL OVERVIEW ON AFTERMATH

The National Police Agency reported 9199 dead, 13,786 missing, and 2722 injured.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, eight prefectures plan to host in hotels and public facilities 152,000 people, approximately 48 percent of the total number in evacuation centers. The Japanese government also plans to build 30,000 transitional shelters in the next two months.

Vice President Biden and Secretary Clinton signed the condolence book at the Japanese embassy.

According to the Japan Meteorological Agency, the country has experienced 318 aftershocks of 5.0 or greater magnitude since the initial quake.

Cabinet Chief Secretary Edano announced the government is considering a new "reconstruction agency"

to serve as the core body overseeing reconstruction efforts.

TEPCO announced it will resume rolling power outages March 22 following a three-day suspension. The blackouts will affect approximately ten million households.

Narita and Haneda Airports are almost fully operational and nearly all regular flights are operating as scheduled. Airline representatives report that Narita Airport will install radiation measurement equipment and publish measurements on its website. Narita Airport also reports that some elevators and lighting have been turned off to conserve power and that some cash dispensers are not functioning.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reports the United States is the largest donor to date, with over \$23 million in assistance, which accounts for over 70 percent of total funding. China was the second largest donor with \$4.7 million in contributions.

NKH television's "News 7" program, Japan's most-watched news show, carried a three-minute report on the ongoing relief operations conducted by the USS Ronald Reagan.

An unmanned KMAX helicopter will be deployed and will be able to fly close to the nuclear plant to help keep an estimated 1000 to 1500 tons of water in the spent fuel rod holding tank. The KMAX team plans to depart from the Westover Air Reserve Base in Massachusetts March 22 via C5 transport. Lockheed Martin plans to bring a contingent of 24 technicians along with the helicopter to support the operation.

At the request of the Japanese government, a U.S. military salvage boat is expected to arrive in Japan on March 23 to remove underwater obstacles from Port Hachinohe in the northern Aomori prefecture so the oil base can resume berthing cargo vessels and other ships.

DART continues to conduct assessments, although the weather has delayed some on the ground assessments.

Ten thousand sets of personal protective equipment, such as suits, masks, gloves, decontamination bags, and other supplies, arrived in Tokyo. The Department of Defense and the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team will transport the suits to a Japan Self Defense Force post in Fukushima Prefecture.

An update on U.S. Government assistance to Japan to date can be found at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/p/tp-20110322-01.html>

FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI NUCLEAR ISSUES

The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) announced power lines were connected to the switchboards of all six reactor units and power was restored to the central control room of reactor No. 3. Power is expected to be restored to the cooling water pump at reactor No. 3 March 23 and, if successful, the process to cool the reactor and spent fuel pool would begin.

TEPCO reported water levels at reactors Nos. 1, 2, and 3 were stable and seawater injections continued. No changes were reported in the status of those reactor cores.

Truck-mounted pumps injected water for three hours into the reactor No. 4 spent fuel storage pool.

At the request of the Japanese government and TEPCO, Toshiba sent 100 engineers to Fukushima Dai-ichi and Dainii power plants to provide support.

The National Institute of Radiological Sciences examined 338 people, including Self Defense Forces and TEPCO employees involved in the water spraying operations, and reported all exhibited only low levels of radiation.

Winds will continue to blow offshore through Saturday and shift to onshore on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. There's a chance of light rain or scattered showers throughout the period. Temperatures are normal; 40s in daytime, 30s at night.

CONSULAR ISSUES

Japanese authorities have confirmed the death of American English teacher Taylor Anderson. Ms. Anderson's father has arrived in Japan and was met by consular officers. He will go to Miyagi Province. We are prepared to assist the family with repatriation or burial of Ms. Anderson's remains. We have no other information on other Americans missing or unaccounted for, but we continue to work with Japanese authorities.

Embassy Tokyo issued an updated Warden Message March 22 with information regarding the availability of potassium iodide tablets.

Ambassador Roos provided a video message and Embassy Tokyo issued a Warden Message covering the current situation in Japan and guidance for American citizens. The Message addressed concerns about radiation, potassium iodide, radiation and food safety, among other concerns. The video and Warden Message are on the Embassy's web site: <http://japan.usembassy.gov>.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE

The UN Disaster Assessment Coordination Team will end all assignments in Japan over the next several days.

UPDATE - March 21, 2011

An updated Travel Warning issued was issued on March 21 announcing that the U.S. Government is making available Potassium Iodide as a precautionary measure for United States Government personnel and dependents residing within locations covered by authorized voluntary departure. Private American citizens are advised to contact their personal physicians or their employer with questions about Potassium Iodide. The text of the announcement is at http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5398.html .

The U.S. Embassy will continue to update American citizens as the situation develops through our Warden network in Japan; these messages, along with other useful information, can be viewed on our website: www.travel.state.gov under "Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami." U.S. citizens in need of emergency assistance or with information on loved ones can enter information at the Task Force Alert link on the Japan Earthquake/Tsunami site on www.travel.state.gov , and provide detailed information about their location and contact information. U.S. citizens in Japan and those concerned about them should monitor that U.S. Department of State website. Additional information is available through the U.S. Embassy Tokyo website at: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/> .

International commercial flights are operating in and out of Japan, and the best way for Americans to get on these flights is to work directly with the airlines. In addition, for those who have made it to the airport in Tokyo already, U.S. consular officers will be available at the Narita airport for the next several days. They will be wearing orange vests that read "U.S. Embassy."

For getting to the airports from various locations in Japan: The State Dept. has compiled a list of local ground transportation options at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_5388.html .

Because of lack of demand, the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo has no plans to charter buses from Sendai to Tokyo, and U.S. government charter flights have been discontinued at this time.

Visa inquiries: For questions concerning U.S. visas for people (not U.S. citizens) seeking to enter the U.S. from Japan, please contact japanvisainquiries@state.gov. Tokyo, Osaka and Naha Visa Sections are providing only emergency visa appointments. The Fukuoka Visa Section has normal hours and the Sapporo Visa Section is closed until March 21.

EPA continues to monitor radiation levels here in the U.S. The www.epa.gov website now has links to the monitors on the West Coast of the U.S.

GENERAL OVERVIEW ON AFTERMATH

The Japanese National Police Agency reported 8,805 dead, and 12,654 missing. Police officials estimate the overall death toll will exceed 18,000 as the Miyagi Prefecture police estimated more than 15,000 deaths in their area alone.

There are an estimated 243,000 homes without power and 720,000 homes without potable water. Approximately 9000 homes had power restored and 20,000 had water restored.

Economy, Trade, and Industry Minister Kaieda said overall economic damage tops \$248 billion.

According to a World Bank report, Japan would need five years to rebuild. Japan's growth will slow only temporarily and should start picking up pace after mid-2011 when reconstruction efforts get underway. The report also estimated "limited impact" on the regional economy.

JX Nippon Oil & Energy Corporation's oil refinery in Yokohama, one of Japan's largest facilities, reportedly resumed production of gasoline and kerosene. Officials with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said that the gasoline supply in the greater Tokyo area will likely come back to normal within several days.

The ESSEX Air Rescue Group plans to insert three Humanitarian Assistance Survey Teams from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit to conduct surveys in the vicinity of Iwate and Sendai.

The ruling party coalition called for a significant increase in the nation's budget to address the disaster.

Japanese government officials announced that portions of the damaged Tohoku Expressway, which links Tokyo and Sendai, would re-open for the first time March 22.

Manila-based World Health Organization said that the detection of radioactivity in some Japanese foods, and the Japanese government's reaction thereafter, indicates a "more serious" food safety situation than originally thought.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano announced Prime Minister Kan's instruction to governors of Fukushima, Gunma, Ibaraki, and Tochigi prefectures to restrict spinach and canola shipments grown in those prefectures and milk produced in Fukushima. Edano said eating products subject to the shipment restrictions should not immediately affect human health.

Japan prohibited the sale of raw milk from Fukushima Prefecture. The sale of spinach from neighboring Ibaraki Prefecture was banned due to detected levels of radioactive iodine and cesium surpassing government limits.

The Japanese government reported that residents of Iitate Village and Fukushima prefecture have been advised not to drink tap water, and the government is supplying bottled water. In the Tokyo area, 10 of 12 water samples taken March 15 and 16 did not contain radiation.

There are no international or domestic restrictions on air travel to or within Japan. Measurements of air and water in areas outside Fukushima and Ibaraki are well within safe limits.

FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI NUCLEAR ISSUES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is analyzing the color of smoke from reactor No. 3 for indications of problems with the spent fuel pool. Japan's Nuclear Safety Agency observed white smoke at reactor No. 2, which appeared to originate from a new location. The NRC reports the steam was hydrogen gas, which vents automatically.

The Ministry of Defense (MOD) has assumed the lead role in Japanese nuclear response activities. TEPCO is now in an advisory role to MOD.

The first of two Australian C-17 aircraft carrying components for the pumping system that pumps seawater into reactors, and three technical experts arrived at Yokota Air Base. The second C-17 is expected to arrive March 22.

Tomioka Town, Iwaki City, and Miharu Town in Fukushima Prefecture began distributing potassium iodide tablets to residents before receiving official instructions from the Japanese government, causing confusion among local residents.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant was already one of the most trouble-prone nuclear facilities in Japan, even before the March 11 earthquake and tsunami, according to Wall Street Journal analysis of regulatory documents.

CONSULAR ISSUES

Consular teams from Sendai and other areas have returned from the affected area, but remain in contact with Japanese

authorities trained in search techniques.

Embassy Tokyo is working to confirm the identity of remains that Miyagi Police believe to be of an American teacher.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE

The Russian government has enhanced radiation checks on travelers and cargo originating from Japan, with every incoming passenger being screened for possible radiation contamination. No higher-than-average-radiation has been detected thus far.

UPDATE - March 20, 2011

GENERAL OVERVIEW ON AFTERMATH

The National Police Agency reported the death toll stands at 8450, with 2701 injured and 12,909 still missing.

Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe, and Osaka ports are experiencing congestion due to inconsistent power and extra cargo from diverted ships.

Japanese Ambassador Fujisaki and a USAID representative greeted the Fairfax County USAR team upon arrival in the United States at 0415 EDT March 20.

Japan announced the creation of a task force under the prime minister's office for improved coordination of humanitarian assistance.

Japanese Self Defense Force delivered more than seven tons of kerosene airlifted by U.S. military helicopters to Kusennuma City, Miyagi prefecture.

FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI NUCLEAR ISSUES

Aerial monitoring flights conducted March 19 showed the 50-mile evacuation zone remains adequate. Air samples do not indicate any further melting of the reactor cores.

The IAEA began measuring radiation in air and soil in the Tokyo metropolitan area March 19.

Prime Minister Kan will visit Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures by helicopter March 21 but will remain outside the 12-mile exclusion zone.

The Government of Japan said power was restored to the No. 2 reactor, and other reactors were expected to regain power early the week of March 21, media report. The U.S. Department of Energy confirmed the power is back on at the No. 2 reactor.

Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) reports there is water in the spent fuel pools at the Nos. 3 and 4 reactors, but there is no independent verification of these reports.

At the request of Japan and the United States, Australia was scheduled to transport pumping equipment to Japan from Perth beginning March 20. The Self Defense Forces (SDF) and Tokyo Fire Department will continue spraying water onto the Nos. 3 and 4 reactors until the equipment arrives. Local pumping equipment is also being sent from Mie prefecture.

TEPCO reports cooling systems are working in the No. 5 and No. 6 reactors, and the temperature of the spent fuel pools has decreased to a safe level.

TEPCO stated the radiation level within the Fukushima facility declined since water spraying began March 19.

TEPCO reported one additional worker was exposed to unsafe levels of radiation, bringing the total number of TEPCO employees exposed to dangerous levels to seven.

The Fukushima prefecture city of Iwaki distributed iodine tablets to 150,000 residents.

Japan's Self Defense Force will send two tanks to Fukushima to help remove radiation-contaminated debris obstructing fire trucks' access.

As of 1200 EDT March 20 winds were currently blowing out to sea but are expected to shift counter-clockwise toward the south the evening of March 21.

U.S. airline representatives report Narita airport will install radiation measuring equipment and publish the measurements on their web sites.

The Japan Health Ministry identified additional types of radiation-tainted vegetables in Chiba, Gunma, and Tochigi prefectures.

Taiwan authorities discovered a shipment of fava beans from Japan were "very slightly contaminated" but within Taiwan's legal safety limits. The beans will be destroyed.

CONSULAR ISSUES

Department of Defense dependents will depart Japan en route to the United States over the next several days under the authorized voluntary departure. Flights are expected to be at capacity.

The Miyagi Consular Assistance Field Team (CAFT) returned to Tokyo. The Sapporo component of the Iwate CAFT returned to Sapporo, while the Tokyo component will remain until March 21.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE

China will suspend approval of new nuclear power stations and reassess all nuclear projects. The Chinese search and rescue team returned to China March 20 after completing operations.

UPDATE - March 19, 2011

There has been an updated Travel Warning issued authorizing the voluntary departure of eligible family members and warning U.S. citizens of the deteriorating situation at the nuclear power plant and adding Akita Prefecture to the areas impacted. The text of the message is at: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5390.html .

Additional information from an on-the-record briefing with Under Secretary of State Patrick Kennedy and Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Poneman is at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/p/tp-20110317-09.html> . Under Secretary Kennedy and Deputy Assistant Secretary James D. Pettit, Bureau of Consular Affairs, held special briefing this afternoon and their remarks are at <http://www.state.gov/m/rls/remarks/2011/158550.htm> .

The U.S. Embassy will continue to update American citizens as the situation develops. U.S. citizens in need of emergency assistance, or persons with information about such individuals, can enter information about them through the Task Force Alert link on the Japan Earthquake/Tsunami site on www.travel.state.gov, and provide detailed information about their location and contact information. U.S. citizens in Japan and those concerned about them should monitor the U.S. Department of State website at travel.state.gov.

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Because of lack of demand, bus service from Sendai has been suspended and charter flights have been discontinued at this time.

We continue to send out updated messages through our Warden network in Japan; these messages, along with other useful information, can be viewed on our website: <http://travel.state.gov> under "Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami." Additional information is available through the U.S. Embassy Tokyo website at: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>.

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How to help: We encourage cash donations. The web site www.interaction.org has a list of organizations accepting contributions. The American Red Cross is accepting donations of \$10 by texting REDCROSS to 90999.

USAID now has an email address for Americans who want to provide assistance (cash donations) to help them direct contributions to organizations on the ground: japanhelp@ofda.gov.

USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is coordinating the overall response management and humanitarian assistance effort. AID/OFDA can be reached at RMT_PACTSU@ofda.gov (underscore between RMT and PACTSU), Phone: 202 712 0039.

The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) – www.cidi.org – is a clearing house for putting people who want to donate to disaster relief missions (in either in case or kind) in contact with NGOs like Interaction. CIDI has the expertise to match up quickly individual U.S. citizens, i.e. congressional constituents, with public and private entities that can provide transport.

GENERAL OVERVIEW ON AFTERMATH

The Japanese National Police Agency reported 7653 dead, 2583 injured, and 11,746 missing. NHK reported this is the largest number of casualties in Japan since World War II.

Japan's Ministry of Health confirmed on its website the presence of radioactive iodine in food products from the Fukushima and Ibaraki prefectures and is considering prohibition of certain items.

Water in Tokyo also tested positive for radioactive iodine, although the Japanese government confirmed the trace amounts do not affect human health if ingested.

A fire at Cosmo Oil's Chiba refinery, which has raged since the earthquake, was extinguished.

Urban Search and Rescue Teams from Los Angeles and Fairfax counties departed Japan and are en route to Los Angeles and Dulles. The Japanese Consul General in Los Angeles plans to meet the team at its first stop and Ambassador Fujisaki will meet the Fairfax team in Virginia.

Tokyo Electric Power Company decided not to carry out power rationing for the first time since March 14.

Earthquake damage is now estimated at \$200 billion, not including damage associated with the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI NUCLEAR ISSUES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) assessed the spent fuel cooling pools in reactors No. 3 and No. 4 were completely dry, while pools in No. 1 and No. 2 were stable. Efforts to fill the dry pools with fire hoses and helicopter-borne water drops were not effective. According to the IAEA, diesel generators are providing power for cooling No. 5 and No. 6.

Engineers connected a power line to the plant, which was expected to restore electricity to four of the six reactors. It was unclear whether the cooling system would be sufficient given the extensive damage.

Prime Minister Kan ordered the Ministry of Defense (MOD) to take the lead on coordinating the whole-of-government response at the reactor site.

Meteorological forecasts indicate winds will head offshore through March 20, and might shift onshore for 12 hours March 21 before shifting back offshore. In response to the forecast, Prime Minister Kan said the crisis remained "very grave";

Japan will send an official to Vienna to explain the nuclear crisis at a March 21 board meeting.

CONSULAR ISSUES

An updated Travel Warning and voluntary authorized departure cable were issued, warning U.S. citizens of the deteriorating situation at the nuclear power plant and adding Akita Prefecture to the areas impacted.

Three U.S. chartered buses departed Sendai March 19. The remaining 10 buses were cancelled due to lack of demand. No further U.S.-chartered flights are planned at this time.

Seats remain available on commercial flights, which are 80 to 90 percent occupied, to the United States and regional destinations from Narita and Haneda airports.

The consular team in Sendai finished door-to-door searches for U.S. citizens and are returning to Tokyo.

U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) confirmed departure of family members commenced from Yokota Air Base March 19 using charter aircraft. The first flight departed Yokota for Seattle with 233 passengers. PACOM confirmed these flights will be open to private American citizens.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE

IAEA will station additional officials in Tokyo to improve monitoring cooperation. Radiation levels in major Japanese cities have not changed significantly since yesterday.

The IAEA radiation monitoring team took measurements at seven different locations in Tokyo and in the Kanagawa and Chiba Prefectures. Dose rates were well below those which are dangerous to human health.

The Singaporean Foreign Ministry advised nationals living within 60 miles (100 km) of the plant to leave Japan.

The foreign ministers of Japan, China, and the Republic of Korea will meet in Kyoto March 19 to discuss future cooperation in disaster prevention and the safety of nuclear facilities.

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office issued a travel warning advising against all non-essential travel to Tokyo and the northeast portion of Japan and recommending UK nationals in these areas consider leaving.

UPDATE 2 - March 18, 2011

There has been a Travel Warning issued authorizing the voluntary departure of eligible family members from Tokyo, Yokohama, and Nagoya, and recommending that U.S. citizens in Japan consider departing. The text of the message is at: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5390.html

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Bus Seats Available from Sendai: The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo has arranged for over 600 seats on several buses for transportation from Sendai City Hall to Tokyo. Priority for seats will be given to U.S. citizens and their immediate dependents. No reservation is required. However, passengers will be required to sign a promissory note to reimburse the U.S. Government for the normal bus fare from Sendai to Tokyo.

The first buses will depart at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 18 in front of Sendai City Hall. If there are extra seats left over, then the remaining buses will depart on 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 19 at the same location.

We continue to send out updated messages through our Warden network in Japan; these messages, along with other useful information, can be viewed on our website: <http://travel.state.gov> under "Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami." Additional information is available through the U.S. Embassy Tokyo website at: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>.

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The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) — www.cidi.org — is a clearing house for putting people who want to donate to disaster relief missions (in either in cash or kind) in contact with NGOs like Interaction. CIDI has the expertise to match up quickly individual U.S. citizens, i.e. congressional constituents, with public and private entities that can provide transport for commodities or charities to receive cash.

GENERAL OVERVIEW ON AFTERMATH

The Japanese National Police reports 6911 dead and 10,754 missing.

The number of people in evacuation centers dropped from 430,000 to 390,000. Households without power dropped from 450,000 to 370,000. Approximately 1.8 million households continue to have problems accessing potable water.

Satellite photos show Ishinomaki City in Miyagi prefecture suffered 15 square miles of flooding in the tsunami, the worst in terms of total area.

The Japanese Ministry of Defense ordered reservists to duty to assist with water supply, life support, and translation for the first time since the reservist system began in 1954.

The G7 pledged to intervene in currency markets in a coordinated manner for the first time since 2000 as Japan sold Yen on currency markets.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology reported damage to 195 cultural and natural heritage sites in 13 prefectures.

FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI NUCLEAR ISSUES

The spent fuel pools at reactor No. 4 remain a high priority. Japanese authorities said the entire core of reactor No. 4 was unloaded and placed in the spent fuel pool located in the reactor's building before the earthquake.

Despite large amounts of vapor at reactor No. 3, Japanese authorities calculate the pool will not dry out until April 4. Reactors No. 1 and 2 appear stable as workers continue to pump in seawater to cool the reactors. Although the temperatures in the fuel pools next to the reactors No. 5 and 6 have risen incrementally, these pools are less of a concern.

TEPCO said burying the reactors in sand and concrete was a possible last resort.

Japanese monitoring in Chiba, Saitama, Tokyo, Ibaraki, Tochigi, and Iwate from March 13 to March 16 reported short-term increases in the normal gamma radiation received per hour by factors of between about 10 and 50, which quickly returned to normal.

A miniscule amount of radioactive material, apparently from Fukushima, was detected by a monitoring post in California.

Japanese engineers will use infrared rays to gauge the temperatures of the reactors and spent fuel storage pools and also take photos to assess the damage to the outer buildings and core of the reactors March 19. The IAEA will expand

monitoring cooperation.

CONSULAR ISSUES

The first U.S.-chartered bus departed Sendai at 2300 EDT March 17 with 27 U.S. citizens and six foreign nationals. Embassy Tokyo issued a Warden Message announcing additional buses on standby to depart Sendai at 2000 EDT. Canadian-chartered buses transported two Americans from Sendai.

Demand for U.S.-chartered flights is low and commercial flights are about 85 percent full.

DHS has no plans to increase active radiation screening for passengers at ports of entry at this time.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE

The UK reserved 200 seats on a flight to Hong Kong at 0800 EDT March 19. Only 43 British and other eligible nationals have signed up.

The British Search and Rescue Team completed its assignment March 17 and plans to leave the country.

Bulgaria, Austria, and Finland sent radiation monitoring experts and equipment to their embassies in Tokyo.

Chinese authorities at Dalian airport refused to unload cargo aboard a Japanese plane citing abnormal level of radiation.

To date, the U.S. military has conducted 132 helicopter and 641 aircraft missions to assist in survivor recovery, personnel transport, and relief commodities distribution.

Google offered personnel and assets to re-establish mobile phone and internet connectivity and offered to underwrite the cost of sending nuclear experts from Lawrence Livermore Labs. The internet company also offered to help the IAEA, WHO, and CDC establish centralized data repositories for information on radiation levels around Fukushima.

Thailand will send three C-130s with 18 pallets of relief supplies beginning March 18. The C-130s will also help transport Thai nationals returning to Thailand starting March 20.

Australia urged its citizens to leave Tokyo and surrounding areas in an upgraded travel warning.

UPDATE - March 18, 2011

There has been a Travel Warning issued authorizing the voluntary departure of eligible family members from Tokyo, Yokohama, and Nagoya, and recommending that U.S. citizens in Japan consider departing. The text of the message is at: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_5390.html

Additional information from an on-the-record briefing with Under Secretary of State Patrick Kennedy and Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Poneman is at <http://japan.usembassy.gov/e/p/tp-20110317-09.html> . Under Secretary Kennedy and Deputy Assistant Secretary James D. Pettit, Bureau of Consular Affairs, held special briefing this afternoon and their remarks are at <http://www.state.gov/m/rls/remarks/2011/158550.htm> .

The U.S. Embassy will continue to update American citizens as the situation develops. U.S. citizens in need of emergency assistance, or persons with information about such individuals, can enter information about them through the Task Force Alert link on the Japan Earthquake/Tsunami site on www.travel.state.gov , and provide detailed information about their location and contact information. U.S. citizens in Japan and those concerned about them should monitor the U.S. Department of State website at travel.state.gov .

International commercial flights are operating in and out of Japan, and the best way for Americans to get on these flights is to work directly with the airlines. In addition, for those who have made it to the airport in Tokyo already, US consular officers will be available at the Narita airport for the next several days. They will be wearing orange vests that read "U.S. Embassy." In addition, the Department of State is arranging charter flights from Tokyo to safehaven locations in Asia. Space on these flights is limited, and travelers will be required to sign a form promising to reimburse the U.S. government at the equivalent commercial rate. Information on these flights is at http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_5388.html .

For getting to the airports from various locations in Japan. The State Dept. has compiled a list of local ground transportation options at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_5388.html .

Bus Seats Available from Sendai: The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo has arranged for over 600 seats on several buses for transportation from Sendai City Hall to Tokyo. Priority for seats will be given to U.S. citizens and their immediate dependents. No reservation is required. However, passengers will be required to sign a promissory note to reimburse the U.S. Government for the normal bus fare from Sendai to Tokyo.

The first buses will depart at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 18 in front of Sendai City Hall. If there are extra seats left over, then the remaining buses will depart on 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 19 at the same location.

We continue to send out updated messages through our Warden network in Japan; these messages, along with other useful information, can be viewed on our website: <http://travel.state.gov> under "Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami." Additional information is available through the U.S. Embassy Tokyo website at: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>.

Visa inquiries: For questions concerning U.S. visas for people (not U.S. citizens) seeking to enter the U.S. from Japan, please contact japanvisainquiries@state.gov. Tokyo, Osaka and Naha Visa Sections are providing only emergency visa appointments. The Fukuoka Visa Section has normal hours and the Sapporo Visa Section is closed until March 21.

How to help: We encourage cash donations. The web site www.interaction.org has a list of organizations accepting contributions. The American Red Cross is accepting donations of \$10 by texting REDCROSS to 90999.

USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is coordinating the overall response management and humanitarian assistance effort. AID/OFDA can be reached at RMT_PACTSU@ofda.gov, Phone: 202 712 0039.

The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) — www.cidi.org — is a clearing house for putting people who want to donate to disaster relief missions (in either in case or kind) in contact with NGOs like Interaction. CIDI has the expertise to match up quickly individual U.S. citizens, i.e. congressional constituents, with public and private entities that can provide transport for commodities or charities to receive cash.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF AFTERMATH

President Obama visited the Japanese Embassy in Washington March 17 to deliver flowers and express sympathies on behalf of the American people. The President spoke on events in Japan this afternoon. His remarks are at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2011/03/17/president-obama-we-will-stand-people-japan>.

The Japanese National Police Agency reported 5692 dead, 9522 missing, and 2383 injured.

Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) announced it was able to avoid implementing rolling blackouts in Tokyo and its surrounding area.

Toyota will suspend all production until March 22, Honda will suspend all production until March 20, and Nissan will stop production at four plants in Kanagawa Prefecture.

The Nikkei 225 Index dropped 131 points or 1.4 percent. Overall, in the past five sessions, the Index is down more than 14 percent.

Japanese Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Kano warned of a "food supply-demand imbalance" in the country. Japan produces only 39 percent of its own food and will be even more dependent on foreign supplies.

Sendai Airport is now open to supply humanitarian efforts for Self Defense Forces (SDF) and U.S. military flights. Delta Airlines reported while outbound flights from Japan are almost full, inbound traffic is nearly empty.

Delta plans to temporarily suspend its Haneda service to Detroit and Los Angeles and focus on its Narita hub.

British Airways became the latest airline carrier to pull crews out of Tokyo. The UK is chartering flights from Tokyo to Hong Kong to supplement commercially available options for British nationals seeking to leave Japan.

The World Health Organization representative in China issued a statement to quell increasing public concern.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) assesses secondary containment at the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactor No. 3 is severely damaged, primary containment at reactor No. 2 is damaged, half of fuel at reactor No. 1 is uncovered, the water level is dropping in the spent fuel pond and rods are heating up at reactor No. 5, and the water level in reactor No. 6 is lower than normal but not heating up. There is another spent fuel storage facility on site and its status is currently unknown.

IAEA Director General Amano and an expert mission traveled to Japan to conduct high-level consultations with Japanese authorities and respond to Japan's request for assistance in environmental monitoring and medical services. Amano asked the Board of Governors to meet March 21 in a special session so he could report on his by-then completed trip.

The Department of Energy reports it continues to analyze data from manned air monitoring assets performing assessments since March 16 near the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) estimates it will fix power cables by March 18 on the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant to supply power to the reactor coolant system and test power to reactor No. 2 once spraying of water on reactor No. 3 is completed.

At least 20 people have fallen ill due to possible radiation contamination, in addition to 19 injured and two missing at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

CONSULAR ISSUES

The first U.S. government voluntary authorized departure flight departed Tokyo at 1138 EDT and arrived at Taipei 1300 EDT. The total number of passengers on the plane was 96.

There are no reports of U.S. citizen fatalities.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND RESPONSE

The Republic of Korea (ROK) assistance to Japan since March 11 has exceeded \$12.5 million, including 52 tons of boric acid, the primary material used to halt fission reaction at nuclear power plants.

French Interior Minister Gueant said France was prepared to welcome Japanese nationals in need of care who could not be treated in Japan.

Embassy Paris reports French Finance Minister Lagarde will convene conference calls March 17 with finance ministers and central bankers from European and Group of 7 countries to assess economic effects and possible responses.

Canada advised all of its citizens within 50 miles of the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant to move farther from the site, joining the United States in urging the wider evacuation zone. India advised its nationals to avoid non-essential travel to Japan. Air India also introduced daily flights in order to fly Indian citizens back. The People's Republic of China began bussing its nationals out of the affected areas, transporting citizens to where China Airlines flights operate.

UPDATE 2 - March 17, 2011

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GENERAL OVERVIEW ON AFTERMATH

Japanese National Police Agency reported 5321 dead, 9329 missing, and 2383 injured. Embassy Tokyo has received no reports of U.S. citizen fatalities. More than 500,000 people have been internally displaced.

Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) began implementing rolling blackouts in Chiba, Tochigi, and Saitama prefectures.

Japan began random tests of agricultural products for radioactive contamination. Canada, China, and South Korea will monitor imports from Japan.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

The status of the spent fuel pools in Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors No. 3 and No. 4 remains unclear. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reports reactor No. 3 is not covered in water and the structural integrity of reactor No. 4 may be so weak it can not retain water. Pressure was reportedly rising in reactor No. 3.

Defense Minister Kitazawa announced helicopter operations to spray water on reactor No. 3. Post notes the helicopter operations concluded. Reactor No. 4 is being cooled with water cannon trucks. Media reports radiation levels remained unchanged.

Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) staff remained on site but could not make necessary visual inspections for reactors No. 3 and 4 due to physical damage and radiation levels.

TEPCO reported a new power line to the plant, which would facilitate cooling and firefighting operations, was nearly complete.

President Obama spoke to Prime Minister Kan March 17 offering additional U.S. nuclear experts and affirming U.S. commitment to assist.

CONSULAR ISSUES

A Travel Warning was issued announcing the voluntary authorized departure for eligible family members of Embassy Tokyo, Consulate Nagoya, and the Foreign Service Institute Field School in Yokohama.

U.S. Forces Japan (USFJ) will follow the Department's authorized voluntary departure and organize arrangements for family members.

Embassy Tokyo issued a Warden Message recommending American citizens evacuate the area within 50 miles of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in accordance with NRC recommendations.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The III Marine Expeditionary Unit established a Command Element in Sendai to coordinate military assistance and the Forward Air Refueling Point at Yamagata Airfield is now operational. The USS Ronald Reagan is northeast of Sendai conducting relief efforts and the USS Tortuga is offloading equipment and personnel in Aomori.

USFJ provided 150 nuclear, biological, and chemical suits to TEPCO employees.

ExxonMobil announced it will donate \$3 million to the Japanese Red Cross, provide additional electricity to the Tokyo area, and refine extra fuel worldwide to calm markets.

Singapore donated \$500,000 for relief operations and sent a five-person search and rescue team.

Bermuda pledged up to \$50,000 in matching donations to the Japanese Red Cross.

Chinese oil company PetroChina will supply 20,000 tons of diesel and gasoline to Japan.

UPDATE - March 17, 2011

We want to update you on the efforts of U.S. consular officers in the affected areas of Japan. There are currently four consular assistance teams in Miyagi and Ibaraki prefectures; they are using information from our inquiry database to seek out U.S. citizens we believe are in those areas, going door-to-door, talking with local security and healthcare officials, and visiting shelters and evacuation centers. To date, we have not received any reports of U.S. citizen deaths. The Sendai team is providing emergency consular assistance at the Sendai International Relations Association offices (SIRA) in Sendai, and there are also teams at the Narita and Haneda airports to assist U.S. citizens who are seeking to depart Japan.

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Department of Energy and other technical experts in the

U.S. Government have reviewed the scientific and technical information they have collected from assets in country, as well as what the Government of Japan has disseminated, in response to the deteriorating situation at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant. Consistent with the NRC guidelines that apply to such a situation in the United States, we are recommending, as a precaution, that American citizens who live within 50 miles (80 kilometers) of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant evacuate the area or to take shelter indoors if safe evacuation is not practical.

The U.S. Embassy will continue to update American citizens as the situation develops. U.S. citizens in need of emergency assistance should send an e-mail to JapanEmergencyUSC@state.gov with detailed information about their location and contact information, and monitor the U.S. Department of State website at travel.state.gov.

International commercial flights are operating in and out of Japan, and the best way for Americans to get on these flights is to work directly with the airlines. In addition, for those who have made it to the airport in Tokyo already, US consular officers will be available at the Narita airport for the next several days. They will be wearing orange vests that read "U.S. Embassy";

Getting to the airports from various locations in Japan: the State Dept. has compiled a list of local ground transportation options at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_5388.html.

We continue to send out updated messages through our Warden network in Japan; these messages, along with other useful information, can be viewed on our website: <http://travel.state.gov> under "Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami". Additional information is available through the U.S. Embassy Tokyo website at: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>.

GENERAL OVERVIEW ON AFTERMATH

Japanese police reported 4277 dead and 8194 missing. Embassy Tokyo has received no reports of U.S. citizen fatalities.

A total of 440,818 people are in shelters, and at least 1.6 million households in 12 prefectures are without water. More than 2400 schools in 22 prefectures collapsed or suffered significant damage. The government of Japan ordered the construction of 600 temporary shelters.

Japanese Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Kano announced the release of stockpiled rice to address shortages caused by transportation disruptions.

A survey of major supermarkets in greater Tokyo showed prices multiplied up to ten times. Minister of Consumer Affairs Renho called for people in Tokyo to refrain from hoarding goods.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) believes spent fuel pools in reactors No. 3 and No. 4 might be uncovered, but are maintaining structural integrity.

TEPCO said a new power line to revive electric-powered pumps that supply cooling water supply to spent fuel storage ponds is almost complete. Officials plan to try it "as soon as possible."

Japan's health and welfare minister increased the "acceptable" level of radiation exposure to five times the level allowed in the United States to permit a crew to resume attempts to cool damaged sectors.

TEPCO staff remains on site but cannot make necessary visual inspections due to debris and physical damage.

IAEA Chief Amano urged the Japanese government to provide better information to the agency about the nuclear crisis and announced plans to visit Japan March 17.

CONSULAR ISSUES

U.S. Consular teams in Miyagi and Ibaraki have assisted 84 U.S. citizens since March 14.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

A British Search and Rescue (SAR) team joined the USAID 144-person and 12-canine SAR team. The teams established a combined base of operations in Sumita, Iwate Prefecture.

Canada's 17-member Disaster Victim Identification Team will arrive March 17.

The Red Cross has provided \$10 million to the Japanese Red Cross for relief efforts supporting immediate needs for 530,000 internally displaced persons.

Walmart announced its intention to provide \$5 million in cash and in-kind donations to be distributed through its Japanese stores.

Latvia will donate \$200,000 to relief efforts.

Ireland will donate \$1,394,000 to the Red Cross.

Timor Leste will send a disaster relief support team.

UPDATE - March 16, 2011

We want to update you on the efforts of U.S. consular officers in the affected areas of Japan. There are currently four consular assistance teams in Miyagi and Ibaraki prefectures; they are using information from our inquiry database to seek out U.S. citizens we believe are in those areas, going door-to-door, talking with local security and healthcare officials, and visiting shelters and evacuation centers. To date, we have not received any reports of U.S. citizen deaths. The Sendai team is providing emergency consular assistance at the Sendai International Relations Association offices (SIRA) in Sendai, and there are also teams at the Narita and Haneda airports to assist U.S. citizens who are seeking to depart Japan.

Regarding the nuclear incidents in and around Fukushima, the Japan Nuclear Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) recommends that people who live within 20 kilometers of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant in Okumacho evacuate the area immediately, and that people in the zone between 20 and 30 km of the plant stay indoors at home or at work. The Japanese authorities have confirmed that the situation remains serious. The U.S. government and all experts are fully engaged in analyzing the issues, including those regarding Fukushima reactor, in close consultation with the Japanese Government.

We continue to send out updated messages through our Warden network in Japan; these messages, along with other useful information, can be viewed on our website: <http://travel.state.gov> under "Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami." Additional information is available through the U.S. Embassy Tokyo website at: <http://japan.usembassy.gov/>.

Japanese Police reported 3771 dead, 7843 missing, and 2044 injured. Embassy Tokyo has received no reports of U.S. citizen fatalities. Internally displaced persons number 530,000.

In a very rare televised address, the Japanese Emperor told citizens not to give up hope in the face of the earthquake and tsunami. He expressed deep concern about the nuclear situation.

Significant aftershocks continue, including a 6.0 magnitude event 60 miles offshore Tokyo at 2352 EDT March 15.

Most airports continue to operate, but ground transport is erratic due to gas and electricity shortages. Tokyo Metro asked commuters to avoid peak hours.

Currently, TEPCO can only supply 33 million kilowatts, leaving a shortfall of 4 million kilowatts. Several hundred thousand phone and internet connections remain disconnected.

Damage from the earthquake is expected to exceed the \$119 billion damage from the 1995 Kobe earthquake.

FUKUSHIMA DAI-ICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT STATUS

A fire at reactor No. 4 led TEPCO to pull workers temporarily from the site, according to press. NRC is working to confirm the status of the fire and cooling water.

Forecasts for March 16 show winds blowing seaward.

Smoke began rising from reactor No. 3. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano said the reactor's containment vessel might have been damaged.

Japanese Defense Minister Kitazawa said Self Defense Forces might be deployed to the Fukushima plant. Media report SDF helicopters have aborted water drops over reactor No. 3 due to safety concerns.

Minister Kitazawa said U.S. Forces Japan fire trucks delivered March 14 will be used to pump water to cool reactors No. 3 and No. 4. Trained TEPCO operators are now en route to the site.

Media report failure of containment at reactors No. 2 and 3. NRC is unable to confirm the levels of damage and radiation. Information flow and data gathering remain problematic.

U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

Japan requested foreign consequence management support, transport of pumps, boron, fresh water, remote cameras, global hawk surveillance, evacuation support, medical support, decontamination, and radiation monitoring. U.S. Forces Japan is evaluating the request.

In a press conference, Ambassador Roos said the U.S. government and people were “stepping up in countless ways for the Japanese people.” Recognizing conflicting reports, Amb. Roos committed to providing as much up-to-date information as possible.

U.S. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams concluded their assignment in Iwate Prefecture without finding survivors. The teams will be reassigned to work with Chinese and UK USAR teams.

The Philippines and Malaysia announced they would monitor Japanese food imports for radiation.

To date, 102 countries and 14 international organizations have offered assistance.

CONSULAR ISSUES

Australia updated its travel advisory, noting the government had authorized the voluntary departure of dependants of Australian officials in Tokyo.

France advised its citizens to return home or relocate to the south of Japan. Air France planes are en route to Japan to assist in repatriation.

Austria is moving its embassy to Osaka due to radiation concerns.

The Chinese Embassy is sending buses to move its nationals from Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, and Iwate prefectures.

In addition to Ibaraki, Miyagi and Iwate prefectures, U.S. consular teams are in Tokyo area airports and Misawa Air Base.

Consulate General Hong Kong and AIT Taipei issued warden messages citing host government reports that there are no local threats from the nuclear situation in Japan.

UPDATE 2
- March 15, 2011

Japanese police reported the official death toll at 2414.

Miyagi prefectural government confirmed 9700 of 10,000 persons in Minami-Sanriku-Cho whose whereabouts were previously unknown have been found in evacuation shelters.

Delta, United, and American Airlines resumed regular flights to and from Tokyo. Air China cancelled flights from Beijing and Shanghai to Tokyo.

TEPCO started rolling blackouts in parts of its coverage area.

The Ministry of Finance is considering mobilizing nearly all of the \$2.5 billion in remaining fiscal 2010 contingency funds.

The Nikkei closed at 8605, down 10.5%. The massive selloff on the Tokyo Stock Exchange wiped out \$287 billion from the market's value.

NUCLEAR ISSUES

NRC reports the core of Fukushima Dai-ichi reactor No. 2 was uncovered March 14 and might have partially melted through the containment vessel. Experts are analyzing radiation measurements to make an assessment of the reactor's status.

A fire at reactor No. 4, which was burning spent fuel, was extinguished.

Japanese authorities evacuated residents within a 12 mile radius of the Fukushima Dai-ichi site and instructed people within 12 to 19 miles of the facility stay indoors. This affects 210,000 to 220,000 people. Fifty workers remain at the facility.

A no-fly zone is set for a 19 mile radius over the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

Cooling operations are continuing at Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors No. 1 and No. 3.

Winds over the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant are blowing inland from the northeast towards Tokyo according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. Media report officials have detected slightly higher-than-normal radiation levels in Tokyo, but insist there are no health dangers.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Two DOD fire trucks were turned over to Japanese authorities in Fukushima prefecture.

The USS Tortuga arrived off the coast of Hokkaido.

DOE radiation monitoring pods are en route to Yokota Air Force Base.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Russia deployed 180 search-and-rescue personnel and offered nuclear assistance. Prime Minister Putin called for additional deliveries of fuel and will consider increasing coal shipments by three to four million tons.

U.S. EMBASSY AND CONSULATE

Embassy Tokyo resumed limited consular services. Consular teams are in Miyagi and Ibaraki prefecture.

UPDATE

- March 15, 2011

There continue to be conflicting reports regarding the numbers of dead and injured. The Japan Broadcasting Corporation reported 15,000 people were unaccounted for, and 450,000 were sheltering in evacuation centers.

The International Energy Association reported 11 nuclear power reactors were off-line in the affected area. Six oil refineries were closed, representing 1.4 million barrels per day or 30 percent of Japan's total refining capacity.

The Government of Japan distributed 230,000 units of stable iodine to evacuation centers around the Fukushima Dai-ichi and Fukushima Dai-nii plants to help prevent cancer as a precautionary measure.

Japanese stocks plunged below 10,000 March 14, a drop of more than 6 percent. Major manufacturers closed plants for an unspecified period. The Bank of Japan announced plans to inject a record \$183 billion (15 trillion yen) into the economy and will provide an additional \$61 billion (5 trillion yen) in aid for risky assets in an effort to bolster market confidence shaken by the disaster.

The Japanese Ministry of Energy, Trade, and Industry announced it will release three days' worth of oil stockpiles.

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AND RELATED ISSUES

The Japanese Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency reported an explosion at Fukushima Dai-ichi reactor 2. No other details are known at this time.

The U.S. Department of Energy reported the conditions of Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors 1, 2, and 3 have degraded with significant damage to the fuel casings inside the reactor core of all three units. There is no evidence at this time of a core breach at any of the affected reactors.

The radiation released from Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors 1, 2, and 3 reached neighboring prefectures. On March 15, radiation measured in an Ibaraki border town 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of the nuclear plant was 100 times the normal level. Because this was one-tenth the amount received in a normal chest x-ray, the prefecture determined it would have no effect on the health of the people. Around Sendai, U.S. forces were exposed to very small amounts of radiation.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) likely will implement planned power outages in eight prefectures and Tokyo March 15, which could cause train disruptions.

The Department of Defense deployed two fire trucks to respond to a request from the Japanese Prime Minister for high-pressure water pumps to help cool the Fukushima Dai-ichi reactors. TEPCO personnel received the first truck. The second will arrive early March 15.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Two urban search and rescue (USAR) teams from Los Angeles and Fairfax counties arrived in the Ofunato area and will begin operations at first light March 15.

USAID's Response Management Team will deploy additional NRC officials to handle nuclear issues on the ground.

Marines from the III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) are deploying critically needed supplies to affected areas. The III MEF dispatched an advance team to the Tohoku region to establish a forward operational and liaison presence.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Japan accepted the offer of the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide a technical team.

Russian President Medvedev offered to provide energy assistance as well as humanitarian assistance. Prime Minister Kan responded he would consult with Russia if needed.

Russia also may send 200,000 tons of liquefied natural gas to Japan in coming months.

INTERNATIONAL CONSULAR OVERVIEW AND REACTIONS

In addition to the three teams already on the ground, Embassy Tokyo is sending consular teams to Iwate and Ibaraki.

The Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Japan issued a "mandatory evacuation." All Saudi citizens, including Embassy officers, will be evacuated from Osaka. There are approximately 400-500 Saudi citizens in Japan, including some citizens that were working near Fukushima.

UPDATE

- March 14, 2011

Japanese officials confirmed 2,800 dead, after another 1,000 bodies washed up along the Miyagi coastline.

Hundreds of thousands of people are struggling to find food and water. At least 1.4 million households have gone without water, and some 1.9 million households are without electricity.

The National Police Agency estimates nearly 37,700 buildings were damaged or destroyed throughout northeastern Japan.

Opposition New Komeito Party President Yamaguchi agreed to smoothly enact legislative measures and an extra budget bill to extend financial support to quake-stricken areas.

TEPCO announced it lost approximately 20 percent of its power generating capacity and began a series of planned rolling blackouts for parts of the Tokyo area. TEPCO urged its customers to limit electricity use. The Embassy is reducing power use at the chancery and housing compound.

Japan's central bank is injecting \$183.8 billion into money markets after stocks plunged 6.3 percent.

The Shinmoedake volcano on Japan's Kyushu Island resumed activity after lying dormant for a couple of weeks. No injuries were reported and the eruption likely was part of volcanic activity ongoing since January.

NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS AND RELATED ISSUES

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano said a hydrogen explosion occurred at reactor No. 3 of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, injuring 11 workers. Embassy Tokyo comments Assistant Chief Cabinet Secretary Kawai reports data indicates the containment vessel is safe, and the GOJ does not anticipate a major radiation release. Japanese authorities will continue to impose a 12-mile evacuation zone and advised residents in the area to stay indoors.

The Nuclear Safety Agency (NSA) notified the government the cooling system of reactor No. 2 at the Fukushima Dai-ichi failed. The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) is trying to cool the reactor.

DOD issued a press release stating the U.S. 7th Fleet temporarily repositioned its ships and aircraft away from the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant after detecting low level contamination in the air and on its aircraft. The Japanese foreign affairs ministry was notified of the statement in advance and pushed back, saying it would heighten public anxiety.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission will brief the United Kingdom's Health and Safety Executive (nuclear directorate staff) on the nuclear situation.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The III Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Forward unit arrived in Sendai and is embedded with Japanese Northeast Security forces. Additional units are scheduled to arrive soon and MEF is considering an official Japanese government request for U.S. military assistance with restoring operations at the Sendai airport.

The USS Ronald Reagan resumed Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, but moved to a northward position where it is continually monitoring radiation levels.

The USS Tortuga is scheduled to arrive March 15 in Hokkaido to transport approximately 280 Japanese soldiers and 90 vehicles to northeast Japan.

The USS Essex is expected to arrive March 16 in the Sea of Japan.

Embassy Tokyo consular teams in Sendai and Miyagi continue to look for U.S. citizens.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

A Chinese SAR team arrived in Iwate Prefecture March 13 and is en route to Tohoku. Press reports that they arrived in Japan with four tons of SAR materials and equipment, power supplies and telecommunication equipment.

Seventy-seven British personnel arrived at Misawa Air Base to support the SAR mission in the Iwate Ohunato area, and are en route to Ofunato.

An Australian SAR team arrived at Yokota Air Base and will operate in Minamisanriku-cho.

A 55-member New Zealand SAR team is scheduled to arrive at Narita airport March 14.

A 131-member French SAR team will arrive at Narita airport March 14 and move to Misawa Air Base.

UPDATE 2 - March 13, 2011

The National Police Agency of Japan reported 1353 deaths and 1085 missing. Media reports carry higher numbers. About 380,000 people are sheltering in 2050 evacuation centers.

Japan's meteorological agency estimates the possibility of aftershocks with magnitude 7.0 or higher is 70 percent until 2000 EDT March 15, followed by 50 percent until 2000 EDT March 18. Although most aftershocks are concentrated in the area of the original earthquake, there have been others elsewhere in Japan, indicating additional damaging quakes are possible throughout the main islands.

Rolling electricity blackouts will begin March 14. They will affect 13 out of 23 wards in Tokyo. The wards, which include government and Diet offices, Embassy housing, and the chancery, will be exempt. Some cities where U.S. bases are located will be included in the blackouts, but it is not clear if the bases will be affected.

NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES AND RELATED ISSUES

U.S. DOE, HHS, and USAID DART members met with Japanese officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Nuclear Industry Safety Agency on March 13. The DART team reports the Japanese government appears to be getting a handle on the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, where cooling systems on reactors No. 1 and No. 3 have shut down. The containment vessels for all six reactors are intact, and there has been no major release of radioactive material.

Officials are concerned the same hydrogen buildup that resulted in an explosion at Daiichi reactor No. 1 might occur at Daiichi reactor No. 3. If that is the case, a similar visible explosion in reactor No. 3's outer building could occur, though that would not likely result in any significant release of radiation. There are no immediate concerns of radiation leakage from reactor No. 2.

At the Fukushima Dainii nuclear power plant, media report Japanese authorities are still trying to reduce the temperature of reactors Nos. 1, 2, and 4.

A cooling system pump stopped at the Tokai No. 2 nuclear power plant in the Ibaraki prefecture, approximately 75 miles north of Tokyo, according to press. The reactor automatically shut down due to the earthquake, and an emergency generator is now cooling the reactor. This is the first report of trouble related to cooling efforts at the Tokai plant since the earthquake.

A state of emergency at the Onagawa nuclear power plant, 40 miles east of Sendai city, was lifted when radioactivity levels returned to normal. All three reactors at the plant are under control.

The Fukushima prefecture requested the central government provide more equipment and staff so it could start radiation exposure screening at all evacuation stations by March 15.

After detecting radiological material on four helicopters operating from ships of the USS Ronald Reagan battle group, the Navy ordered all of their vessels to remain more than 100 nautical miles off the Japanese coast until an assessment of the impact of contamination on operations is completed. According to initial reports, one helicopter had visited a Japan Self Defense Forces vessel approximately 60 nautical miles northeast of Fukushima. Three others had engaged in ship-to-shore overland flights 60-70 nautical miles north of Fukushima.

American Airlines reports it is slightly adjusting its routes and will carry contingency fuel in case rerouting is required due to the nuclear power plant situation. The Federal Aviation Administration reports no known changes or cancellations to routes.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

The DART team has seven members in Tokyo and four in Misawa, not including search and rescue personnel. Three additional members are scheduled to arrive March 14 in Tokyo.

The U.S. Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams will begin rescue efforts March 14 in Ofunato town, Iwate Prefecture, in northeastern Japan. They will coordinate with the UN disaster assistance team, which arrived in Tokyo March 13. The second USAID cargo plane carrying supplies arrived at Misawa Air Base at 1015 EDT.

INTERNATIONAL REACTION

An Embassy Tokyo consular team is in Sendai city to check on the welfare and whereabouts of U.S. citizens, working with Australian, Canadian, and UK consular officers.

France warned French citizens to avoid all travel to Japan. The French Embassy in Tokyo instructed French citizens to leave Tokyo, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed this was not the official French position.

Germany warned citizens against travel to northeast Japan, and is organizing a bus to evacuate German residents in Sendai to Tokyo.
Germany and Finland are going to authorized departure status for eligible family members.

Kandahar's mayor announced the Afghan city would donate \$50,000 to "brothers and sisters" in Japan.

Japan has accepted offers of assistance from 69 countries. USAR teams from ten countries have arrived and 17 additional teams from other countries are on standby.

UPDATE

- March 13, 2011

Reports of the number of fatalities range from 800 to 2000; 773 are known missing and 1442 are injured, with no confirmed U.S. citizen casualties. Police in Japan's northeastern Miyagi estimate the death toll in Miyagi alone will likely exceed 10,000.

Los Angeles and Fairfax county search and rescue (SAR) teams arrived in Misawa Air Base at 0122 EST March 13. One cargo flight arrived March 12 with enough equipment to support the teams. A second cargo flight is expected later on March 13. Two representatives from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and representatives from the Departments of Energy and Health and Human Services are also in Japan.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the March 11 earthquake moved Japan's main island by about eight feet.

FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano said radiation at the nuclear power plant in Fukushima briefly rose above legal limits but has since declined significantly, according to press. Embassy Tokyo notes Edano also said sea water is being pumped into the No. 3 reactor and that while an explosion is possible, a meltdown is not expected.

DoE notes the information pertaining to the Fukushima nuclear power station is vague and a meltdown remains possible. The No. 2 reactor appears to be stable and is the least problematic of the three reactors.

The Japanese authorities evacuated 170,000 people from the 20 km radius of the Fukushima power plant, according to press. Embassy Tokyo adds the government advises people within the radius to cover their skin completely when outdoors and to avoid eating produce.

Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) said about 160 people were exposed to radiation around the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Japan's foreign ministry briefed diplomatic missions on breaking events but did not include information beyond what was readily available in the media.

USG OPERATIONS AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS

The Travel Alert advised U.S. citizens to avoid travel to Japan and requested all non-essential official U.S. government personnel defer travel to Japan.

Embassy Tokyo also released its sixth Warden Message since the March 11 earthquake. Embassy Tokyo officials are at Tokyo's Narita International Airport to offer assistance and information to U.S. citizens. Flights have resumed and most services are operating normally. One officer will visit Tokyo's Haneda airport, which is reportedly also operating normally.

American Airlines reported a lack of information from Japanese authorities is causing it to seriously consider suspending services to Japan. The FAA Command Center reports Japanese officials say all flight operations are normal.

U.S. ASSISTANCE

PACOM notes helicopter assistance missions were temporarily suspended following nuclear contamination at 13 times the base level of radiation normally in the air. The helicopter crew had minor contamination on their hands and feet. PACOM notes this level does not pose a risk and it remains unclear where the contamination originated.

The USS Ronald Reagan executed six maritime search and rescue and reconnaissance missions and 20 helicopter missions delivering supplies to ships at sea and three towns near Sendai. The Essex, Blue Ridge, Tortuga, Harper's Ferry, and Germantown are all en route to Japan.

The team leader, deputy team leader, logistics officer, and information officer of USAID's Disaster Assistance Relief Team (DART) are in Tokyo.

USAID has provided \$740,600 in humanitarian assistance to date. A list of organizations accepting cash donations for earthquake and tsunami response efforts in Japan is available at www.interaction.org.

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

European missions plan to move to voluntary authorized departure. Embassy Tokyo notes the German Embassy moved to voluntary departure for embassy families and non-essential personnel.

A team of 15 Chinese civilian officials arrived in Japan to conduct search and rescue operations.

Germany, Switzerland, and the UK have also sent assistance teams, according to Japanese press. The UK team of 60 rescuers and two canines is scheduled to arrive at Misawa Air Base March 13.

UPDATE 2 - March 12, 2011

The number of reported fatalities is currently 689 and is expected to rise; 639 are known missing and 1570 are injured. There are no confirmed U.S. citizen casualties.

The GE-Hitachi employees working at Fukushima 4 power plant are currently in Tokyo. All 40 employees have been examined and none has radiation exposure. According to TSA and HHS, all employees will be permitted to board commercial transport.

Los Angeles and Fairfax county rescue teams are en route to Misawa and are expected to arrive in Japan at 2130 EST March 12. The teams include 150 personnel and 12 canines.

At Japan's request, the Department of Defense will take responsibility for search and rescue (SAR) along the coast line and in coastal waters. The USS Ronald Reagan began the first of its six SAR missions planned for March 13.

At 1112 EST, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center canceled the tsunami warning for all areas in the Western Pacific.

Narita and Haneda airports are now open, but due to a backlog of flights it will take a week before the airports are operating normally.

FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

According to media, the emergency cooling system is no longer functioning at the No.2 and 3 reactors at Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power facility. The facility is trying to secure alternate means to cool the reactors, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has requested USFJ support to haul the water.

According to Chief Cabinet Secretary Edano, reactor No. 1 at Fukushima Daiichi Power Plant is pumped full of seawater, but the government of Japan can not confirm the temperature lowered. Secretary Edano noted nine people near the site were exposed to radiation.

Thus far, Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) has declined a general offer of assistance from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The Japanese government is distributing potassium iodine tablets to the population around the impacted site to help prevent radiation sickness and reduce risks for thyroid disease and cancers.

A Japanese self defense unit specializing in nuclear issues took over security at the Daiichi Fukushima site.

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs will hold a briefing for diplomatic missions on the latest nuclear developments.

U.S. ASSISTANCE

The 7th Fleet flag ship USS Blue Ridge has departed for Japan and is estimated to arrive March 18 at 0930 EST. Other ships, including the USS Germantown and the USS Tortuga are expected to arrive March 14 at 1300 EST and 1515 EST respectively.

Japan moved its first 700 Ground Self Defense Force (GSDF) personnel via commercial ferry but reconfirmed its request for DOD transport for other GDSF Northern Army personnel from Otaru to Akita.

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sechin announced Russia can send up to 150,000 tons of liquefied natural gas to Japan, if requested.

An Australian SAR team will arrive March 13 at Yokota Air Force Base.

At Japan's request, a 60 person UK SAR team will land on the U.S. side of Misawa air base and will coordinate with U.S. SAR teams.

UPDATE

- March 12, 2011

The number of reported fatalities is currently 433 and is expected to rise; 784 people are known missing (Note: The 1000 fatalities reported in the last situation report was actually the number of fatalities and missing persons). There are no confirmed deaths of American citizens.

Ambassador Roos held a press conference at 0530 EST. The Ambassador led a moment of silence for the victims of the tragedy and expressed condolences to the Japanese people. He outlined steps to assist American citizens. The Ambassador described U.S. military and humanitarian assistance and offered "our full assistance" in

responding to the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

An explosion occurred at Tokyo Electric Power Company's (TEPCO) Fukushima 1 nuclear power plant, about 160 miles north of Tokyo. Japanese authorities expanded the evacuation zone around the plant from six to 12 miles. Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency (NISA) reported four workers were injured.

NISA reports two radioactive substances, cesium and radioactive iodine, were detected near the Fukushima plant. The agency indicates some of the metal containers of uranium fuel might have started melting.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has made a general offer of assistance to NISA under the IAEA's convention on assistance. Japan has yet to respond. One HHS and one DOE expert are departing for Japan March 12. An NRC officer is currently en route to Japan to join a USAID DART team.

GE Hitachi reported 40 employees (37 of whom are American citizens) evacuated from the Fukushima 4 power plant. Four have reported possible radiation exposure (3 for inhalation of dust particles and 1 contact with radioactive water). They are in transit to Tokyo with the intention to return to the United States, rather than seek local medical attention. Embassy Tokyo is providing consular assistance.

At 0136 EST, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) canceled the tsunami warning for all areas covered by the Center. Tsunami advisories remain in effect for the Western Pacific in case of aftershocks.

USG OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL

Embassy Tokyo resumed normal operations in the chancery.

Misawa Air Base is operating on generator power and has offered potable water to the city.

A missing Embassy Manila employee and his family traveling in Japan have been located and are in good condition.

U.S. ASSISTANCE

The USS Ronald Reagan is scheduled to arrive off the Japanese coast mid-day March 12 EST.

The USS Essex arrived in Malaysia early March 12. The ship is making preparations to depart for Japan as early as March 12. The USS Blue Ridge, which arrived in Singapore, is loading a humanitarian assistance/disaster relief kit and is making preparations to depart for Japan. Other ships, including the USS Harpers Ferry and the USS Germantown, have been redirected to Japan. The 7th Fleet commander has directed almost all helicopter-capable ships to be ready to sail within 24 hours and all non-aviation capable ships to be ready to sail within 48 hours.

Embassy Tokyo will reconfirm whether a request to transfer cooling water to the Fukushima plant is still needed in light of the explosion.

The Fairfax County search and rescue team is en route to Los Angeles to rendezvous with the LA county team with an onward destination of the Misawa Air Base. Members of the OFDA/DART team arrived and are working with USFJ on logistics.

Japanese wave gauges are not operational. NOAA is sharing information with its Japanese counterparts regarding earthquake activity, wave heights, and atmospheric conditions.

USAID has provided \$715,600 in humanitarian assistance to date.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

TEPCO warned of possible blackouts and urged customers to limit use of electricity, especially during peak evening hour.

The earthquake caused water supply stoppages to 1.1 million homes in 18 prefectures.

Limited flights resumed at Tokyo's Narita and Haneda airports.

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

Australia is sending a search and rescue team with dogs and intends to send two C-17 aircraft and up to 100 personnel to Yokota Air Base.

A Republic of Korea (ROK) team with rescue dogs arrived at Tokyo's Haneda airport. ROK is also preparing to send three C-130s carrying approximately 150 personnel and 30 tons of aid.

The United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Singapore plan to send assistance teams.

UPDATE

- March 11, 2011

Secretary Clinton is fully engaged on this issue. Ambassador Roos in Tokyo has spoken to Foreign Minister Matsumoto, and our senior officials are in close contact with the Japanese embassy in Washington.

President Obama spoke with Prime Minister Kan this morning (March 11) and offered the deepest condolences of the American people to the victims of this disaster and their families. He offered whatever assistance the Japanese needed to respond to this terrible event.

The president also made remarks at the top of his news conference today (March 11) offering condolences and laying out some of the immediate efforts the U.S. is taking to provide assistance to Japan, to ensure American citizens and our military in Japan are accounted for and to make sure we are taking necessary precautionary steps here in America due to the tsunami.

The government of Japan has requested humanitarian and logistical assistance. We are working to meet the requests as fully and quickly as possible.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

There are at least 1000 confirmed fatalities and casualty numbers will continue to be adjusted as the response continues.

There are no reports of American citizen fatalities or serious injuries; Mission Japan continues to track welfare and whereabouts cases.

There are approximately 1300 registered American citizens in the most heavily affected region in northern Japan. Mission Japan has not yet been able to access the area.

Aftershocks continue with at least one over magnitude 7.0 and over 20 exceeding magnitude 6.0.

NOAA reports tsunami warnings remain in effect for Japan, Russia, Mexico, French Polynesia, Pitcairn, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Antarctica, Panama, Honduras, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru.

USG OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL

All Embassy staff and dependents are accounted for with no current reports of serious injuries.

Structural engineers have inspected and cleared the chancery and residences. The Embassy plans to reopen March 12.

U.S. ASSISTANCE

USAID has mobilized two Urban Search and Rescue teams from Fairfax and Los Angeles counties, each with approximately 72 personnel, six search and rescue canines, and up to 30 metric tons of rescue equipment.

USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team and provided \$100,000 for immediate local response.

Japan is using the U.S. airbase in Misawa as a hub for relief efforts and international assistance. If additional capacity is needed, the United States has authorized use of Yokota Airbase.

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan is en route to support relief efforts off the coast of northern Japan. It is expected to arrive March 13 local time. Japan has requested landing clearance and refueling support for firefighting helicopters and staff.

Japan requested U.S. Navy transport for approximately 700 Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces personnel from their base in Hokkaido to the main disaster site.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Radiation levels inside the Fukushima nuclear power plant exceeded normal levels after the cooling system failed, media report. Due to power outages, the plant has not yet been able to release vapor to relieve pressure and some radiation has seeped outside the plant. The IAEA reports a power generator has arrived at the power plant. People within 10 kilometers have been evacuated.

Tokyo area roads have reopened. Trains and Narita airport in Tokyo were scheduled to open the morning of March 12.

The U.S. air base at Yokota accepted several diverted commercial planes and is accommodating the passengers.

Mobile and landline phone networks are overloaded and service is unreliable.

INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS

UNSYG Ban said the UN is ready to help Japan in any way necessary following the earthquake and tsunamis.

Japan has accepted offers of supplies and personnel support from the Republic of Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.
